

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-7 are allowed. With entry of this amendment, claims 1-10, 12-18, and 20-24 are pending in the application. Claim 24 is new.

Cited Art

The Action cites Altieri, U.S. Patent No. 6,104,751 (hereinafter “Altieri”); Lee, U.S. Patent No. 5,748,789 (hereinafter “Lee”); and Jacquin, U.S. Patent No. 5,764,803 (hereinafter “Jacquin”).

Patentability of Claims 8-10, 12-18, and 20-23 under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 8, 12-16, 18 and 20-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being allegedly unpatentable over Altieri in view of Lee. Claims 9, 10 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being allegedly unpatentable over Altieri, in view of Lee and Jacquin. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 8-10, 12-18 and 20-23 are directed to a video decoder, and a computer readable medium and method for decoding video, such as that encoded by the method of allowed claims 1-7. Applicants have amended the independent claims 8, 16 and 23 to recite that the decoding includes decoding a syntax for the coded video using language similar to that recited in allowed claims 1-7.

In particular, independent claim 8 now recites, “wherein the syntax scheme identifies a differently quantized region to be from among a list of coding possibilities that comprises a choice of the differently quantized region from among the boundary edges of the frame.” Independent claim 16 now recites, “wherein the syntax scheme codes the region from a choice of the region from among the boundary edges of the frame.” Independent claim 23 recites, “the syntax further signaling the regions for differential quantization to be a coding choice of the region from among the boundary edges of the frame.” Applicants believe that because these decoding claims are directed to decoding a video syntax, such as the syntax of the video produced in the allowed encoding claims 1-7, claims 8-10, 12-18 and 20-23 therefore should likewise be allowable.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art fails to teach or suggest the above identified language of claims 8, 16 and 23. In the Action, the Office alleges that although Altieri fails to disclose the recited syntax (which codes a choice of differently quantized region from among the boundary edges of the frame), that Lee would suggest to one of ordinary skill to so modify Altieri. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Lee describes a method that encodes shape information describing a boundary of a group of pixels representing an object in a sequence of video frames whose encoding/decoding is skipped. See, Lee at Abstract. The video encoder in Lee encodes a compressed representation of the object that uses object masks, feature points, affine transform coefficients and compressed error data. See, Lee at column 28, lines 59-65. This compressed representation designates the boundary around the object. However, in contrast to the recited claim language, the compressed representation does not indicate a choice from among the boundary edges of the object. Further, Lee does not apply a different quantization among the boundary edges, but rather skips encoding/decoding of the entire object encompassed by the boundaries.

As already discussed in the amendment filed February 29, 2008, Joaquin also fails to disclose encoding or decoding of a video syntax that identifies a choice among the boundary edges of a frame for different quantization. Jacquin simply indicates that a relatively fine quantization coder is applied to transform blocks within an elliptical region (e.g., corresponding to a human head or body) identified as foreground, while a coarser quantization code is applied to background blocks. See, e.g., Jacquin at column 2, lines 42-56.

For at least the above reasons, the cited art fails to teach or suggest decoding video that has a syntax that indicates a choice of a differently quantized region from among the boundary edges of a frame.

Because the cited art fails to teach or suggest the language just discussed, independent claims 8, 16 and 23 should be allowable over this art. Dependent claims 9-10, 12-15, 17-18, 20-23 should be allowable for at least the reason of their respective independent claims. The dependent claims recite further limitations believed to render them separately allowable over the art, which reasons are not further belabored herein in interest of brevity.

New Claim 24

Claim 24 recites language similar to previously presented claim 20, but depends from claim 23. Accordingly, no new matter is presented.

Interview Request

If the claims are not found by the Examiner to be allowable, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney to set up an interview to discuss this application.

Conclusion

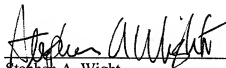
The claims in their present form should be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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